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UNCLAS ALMATY 002549

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN - ENGAGING THE IRAQ COALITION

REF: STATE 111082

1. (SBU) On June 24, Astana PO delivered reftel demarche to Yerlan Baudarbek-Kozhatayev, Office Director for Africa and Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Note: This office's responsibility includes the Middle East.) PO emphasized U.S. appreciation for Kazakhstan's contribution to operations in Iraq and expressed U.S. interest in continuing that partnership.

2. (SBU) Baudarbek-Kozhatayev told PO that Kazakhstan is committed to building stability in Iraq and noted President Nazarbayev's personal statements for Kazakhstan's de-mining contingent there. Astana also hoped, he said, to see greater UN engagement in stabilization activities. As a longer-term matter, Kazakhstan, he continued, is interested in participating in Iraq's economic rehabilitation. (Note: Kazakhstan had planned to send a commercial delegation to Iraq in April 2004, but cancelled after the upsurge in violence in Fallujah. End Note.)

3. (SBU) Baudarbek-Kozhatayev explained that MFA Deputy Minister Shakirov is in Brussels attending the Iraq conference. He agreed to share points from reftel with Shakirov upon his return.

ORDWAY

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